

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A backlight device, in particular for a liquid crystal display, which comprises several lamps disposed within a housing, whereby each lamp comprises a part that can be cooled so as to obtain a good light output, characterized in that the aforesaid parts of the lamps extend through the wall of the housing into a channel through which air can flow.

Claim 2 (original): A backlight device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said lamps are tube-like fluorescent lamps, which extend into the channel with at least one end.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A backlight device as claimed in claim 1, characterized by a fan for generating an air flow through the channel.

Claim 4 (original): A backlight device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said fan extracts air from the channel, or blows air into the channel, as the case may be, at a location between two of the aforesaid lamp parts.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A backlight device as claimed in claim 1, characterized by a sensor for measuring the temperature of the part of a lamp that extends into the channel.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A backlight device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the channel comprises a wall which is provided with a recess between two of the aforesaid lamp parts so as to allow air to pass therethrough.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A backlight device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the housing of the lamps forms a dustproof space, and in that the aforesaid wall abuts against the lamp in a substantially dust-tight manner at the location where the lamp extends through said wall.

Claim 8 (original): A backlight device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said wall comprises a flexible material, which abuts against the lamp.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A backlight device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the housing abuts against a diffuser plate in a dust-tight manner.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A liquid crystal display comprising a backlight device as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 11 (original): A method of lighting a liquid crystal display, which display includes a backlight device which comprises several lamps disposed within a housing, whereby each lamp comprises a part that can be cooled so as to obtain a good light output, characterized in that the aforesaid parts of the lamps extend through the wall of the housing into a channel through which air flows.

Claim 12 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein said lamps are tube-like fluorescent lamps, which extend into the channel with at least one end.

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein by a fan for generating an air flow through the channel.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein said fan extracts air from the channel, or blows air into the channel, as the case may be, at a location between two of the aforesaid lamp parts.

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein a sensor for measuring the temperature of the part of a lamp that extends into the channel.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the channel comprises a wall which is provided with a recess between two of the aforesaid lamp parts so as to allow air to pass therethrough.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the housing of the lamps forms a dustproof space, and in that the aforesaid wall abuts against the lamp in a substantially dust-tight manner at the location where the lamp extends through said wall.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein said wall comprises a flexible material, which abuts against the lamp.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the housing abuts against a diffuser plate in a dust-tight manner.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein comprising a backlight device as claimed in claim 11.